

US Patent Application No. 10/600,052
Response to Office Action of February 13, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 31132.129
Client Reference No. PC877.19

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A body member for use in combination with a shell to form an implantable endoprosthesis, the body member comprising:
a first component formed from a wear resistant first material, and
a second component formed from a resilient second material,
wherein the body member is adapted to articulate with the shell such that one or more surfaces of the shell endoprosthesis come into contact with the first component.
2. (Original) The body member of claim 1, wherein the second component is a central component disposed between the first component and a third component also formed from the first material.
3. (Original) The body member of claim 1, wherein the first material comprises one or more metals.
4. (Original) The body member of claim 3, wherein the metal is an alloy.
5. (Original) The body member of claim 4, wherein the alloy is a cobalt-chrome alloy.
6. (Original) The body member of claim 1, wherein the first material comprises a ceramic.
7. (Original) The body member of claim 6, wherein the ceramic comprises alumina or zirconia.
8. (Original) The body member of claim 1, wherein the first material comprises a wear resistant polymer.

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9. (Original) The body member of claim 8, wherein the polymer comprises a polyethylene.
10. (Original) The body member of claim 7, wherein the polyethylene has a molecular weight ranging from about 5.0×10^5 grams/mol to about 6.0×10^6 grams/mol.
11. (Original) The body member of claim 9, wherein the polyethylene has a modulus of elasticity ranging from about 0.7 to about 3.0 Gpa.
12. (Original) The body member of claim 10, wherein the polyethylene is cross-linked to an extent ranging between about 0 to about 50 %, as measured by a swell ratio.
13. (Original) The body member of claim 8, wherein the polymer comprises a polyetheretherketone (PEEK).
14. (Original) The body member of claim 1, wherein the second material comprises a polymer having a durometer ranging from about 75A to about 65D.
15. (Original) The body member of claim 14, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, silicones, and polyolefins.
16. (Original) The body member of claim 15, wherein the polyurethane is a polycarbonate polyurethane.
17. (Original) The body member of claim 1, wherein the first component is a central component disposed between the second component and a third component also formed from the second material.

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18. (Original) The body member of claim 2 wherein the first and third components include portions for selectively securing the first, second, and third components in a predetermined configuration.

19. (Original) The body member of claim 18, wherein the portions for selectively securing include a lip protrusion and a flexible engaging member.

20. (Currently Amended) A body member for use with a shell structure of an implantable endoprosthesis, the body member comprising a wear resistant material selected from the group consisting of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene, polyetherether ketone, cobalt chrome alloy, alumina, and zirconia, wherein the body member is adapted to articulate with respect to one or more surfaces of the shell structure of the endoprosthesis.

21. (Withdrawn) An implantable endoprosthesis comprising a shell and a body member, the body member including a first component formed from a wear resistant first material, and a second component formed from a resilient second material, wherein the body member is adapted to articulate with the shell such that one or more surfaces of the shell come into contact with the first component and not the second component.

22. (Withdrawn) The implantable endoprosthesis of claim 21, wherein the shell comprises two diametrically opposed portions for surrounding the body member and a central post for extending through an opening in the body member.

23. (Withdrawn) The implantable endoprosthesis of claim 21, wherein the body member comprises a third component formed of the first material, wherein the shell comprises first and second portions, and wherein the body member is disposed between the first and second shell portions such that the first component contacts an inner surface of the first shell and the third component contacts an inner surface of the second shell.

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24. (Withdrawn) A surgical kit comprising an implantable endoprosthesis comprising a shell and a body member, the body member including a first component formed from a wear resistant first material, and a second component formed from a resilient second material, wherein the body member is adapted to articulate with the shell such that one or more surfaces of the shell come into contact with the first component and not the second component.

25. (Withdrawn) The surgical kit of claim 24, further comprising a syringe for introducing lubricant into the interior of the endoprosthesis.

26. (New) A body member for use with a shell structure of an implantable endoprosthesis, comprising:

a first portion configured to articulate with a first surface of the shell structure, the first portion formed from a first wear-resistant material;

a second portion configured to articulate with a second surface of the shell structure, the second portion formed from a second wear-resistant material; and

a third portion positioned at least partially between the first and second portions, the third portion formed from a resilient material.

27. (New) The body member of claim 26 wherein the first wear-resistant material and the second wear-resistant material are the same.

28. (New) The body member of claim 26 wherein the first portion comprises a convex surface.

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29. (New) The body member of claim 28 wherein the second portion comprises a convex surface.

30. (New) The body member of claim 26 wherein the first portion further comprises an opening adapted to receive a first projection of the shell structure.

31. (New) The body member of claim 30 wherein the second portion further comprises an opening adapted to receive a second projection of the shell structure.

32. (New) The body member of claim 26 wherein the first portion further comprises a first retention member for securing the first portion to the third portion.

33. (New) The body member of claim 32 wherein the second portion further comprises a second retention member for securing the second portion to the third portion.

34. (New) A body member for use with a first half and a second half of a shell structure, comprising:

a first portion configured to articulate with the first half of the shell structure, the first portion formed from a first wear-resistant material and having at least one recess;

a second portion configured to articulate with the second half of the shell structure, the second portion formed from the first wear-resistant material and having at least one projection adapted to slidably engage with the at least one recess of the first portion; and

a third portion positioned at least partially between the first and second portions, the third portion formed from a resilient material.